GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3495
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2000
DECONTROL OF FOREST LAND
BRAJ MOHAN RAM

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to decontrol 100 acres of forest land notified for exploitation of minerals by the Birla Industrial Houses in Madhya Pradesh is pending with the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for not decontrolling the forest land in the State?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI T. R. BAALU)

(a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 was enacted to provide for the conservation of forests and for matters connected therewith or ancillary or incidental thereto. As per the Act diversion of forest land for non-forestry purpose by any State Government or any other authority, is prohibited without the prior approval of the Central Government. All the proposals submitted by the State Government for such diversions are considered on merits alone giving due weightage to developmental needs vis-Ã -vis environmental concerns.